



The Hour

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NEWS-KEY

Nazi Propagandists Use Red Cross Official	page 1
McWilliams and Lindbergh	" 3
Nazi Business and U. S.	" 3
"Crusade" Against Democracy	" 4

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AMERICAN RED CROSS OFFICIAL PRAISES NAZIS

James T. Nicholson Finds "No Persecutions" of Jews and Intellectuals -- Nazi Propaganda Sheet in New York Quotes Him Gratefully -- Part of His Past Record is Clue to His Latest Statement

A high official of the American Red Cross in the role of a propagandist for the Nazi regime is gratefully used by Facts In Review, an English-language publication issued by the German Library of Information, a branch organization of the Nazi Reich Consulate in New York. In its issue for May 27, 1940, on page 217, the Nazi propaganda sheet printed a story entitled "No Persecutions in Poland." The story quotes James T. Nicholson, President of the Junior Red Cross (American) and supervisor of that organization's work in Europe to the effect that "Jews are treated with the utmost consideration throughout the Gouvernement General" of former Poland now under Nazi occupation. The following direct statement by Nicholson is prominently displayed as the very first sentence of the story "I know of no atrocities against Jews in Poland." The Nazi propaganda editors continue: "Mr. Nicholson has been in many Polish cities and has witnessed the mobilization of millions of people both inside and outside of Germany. Several million non-Aryans from both German and Russian occupied Poland are moving into the southern and eastern parts of the country. 'It is simply a solution to the minority problem,' says Mr. Nicholson."

In addition to his blessing thus bestowed upon the Nazi "solution to the minority problem", Mr. Nicholson tries to whitewash the brutal treatment of Polish intellectuals in the Nazi concentration camps. Here is his version of the well-known Cracow University tragedy: "The Cracow University professors who had been imprisoned for protesting the German occupation have been released according to Mr. Nicholson." Not a word about those professors who died in the concentration camps or who are still imprisoned and mistreated by the Nazis.

On June 9, questioned by a correspondent in Washington, Nicholson said that he had been misquoted. However, when asked about the reported executions in Nazi-dominated Poland, he dodged the answer by saying tersely: "That's not in my parish." No apparent steps were made by him to have a retraction published by the Nazi editors of Facts In Review.



Nicholson's Background

Who is Mr. Nicholson? What is his background? On the surface of it, his record is imposing enough. James Thomas Nicholson, a native of Massachusetts, 47 years old, is a college graduate who began his career in 1916 as junior engineer for the New England Westinghouse Company, but soon moved to New York and into the field of social work, becoming director of boys' work department of St. George's Church. His employment with the American Red Cross dates from 1919 when he was appointed director of Community Organization for the Atlantic Division of the Red Cross. In 1921 he was promoted to the national offices of the Red Cross, where for the next four years he served as assistant manager of the Washington, D. C. division. From 1925 to 1930 he was assistant manager of the Eastern Area. From March 1, 1930 until recently he served as manager of the Chicago Chapter of the American Red Cross. At the same time he occupied the post of chairman of the Chicago Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers, and he also served as member of the board of directors of the Council of Social Agencies, Community Fund of Chicago. His home was in Evanston, Ill., he was a Republican in politics, and he listed horseback riding, music and theater as his favorite relaxation amidst his strenuous labors.

Propagandistic Maneuver in Chicago

Already in those labors as head of the American Red Cross in the Chicago area and as a prominent social worker and public figure he occasionally betrayed his admiration for Hitler and fascism. On one occasion members of the Chicago Chapter of the American Association of Social Workers were surprised and perturbed to receive a notice that at a meeting of their Chapter Mr. Nicholson was to introduce a nurse from the Nazi Reich who "consented" to deliver a talk on the "wonderful achievements" of the Nazis in the field of public health. She was Erna Von Abendroth, ostensibly presented by the Carl Schurz Memorial Foundation of Philadelphia, but actually sent to the United States by Hitler's government. In Chicago and vicinity her speeches were frankly pro-Nazi. A talk of hers before a women's club at Rogers Park was especially rabid. Once she was billed to appear before the Parents-Teachers Association in a Hammond, Ind., school, but the principal refused to let her speak, for by this time her Nazi activities were clear enough.

When Mr. Nicholson announced Erna Von Abendroth's speech to Chicago's social workers, numerous members protested against this propagandistic maneuver. They said that arranging such a talk was as little in the interests of the members' enlightenment as would have been a talk by a representative of Al Capone's organization as his "wonderful achievements" in the field of public health in Chicago. Apprised of these protests, Mr. Nicholson said he was hurt by "such a lack of broadmindedness" among the Midwestern social workers. The meeting, he said, would be held despite the protests, and the Nazi nurse would speak her piece on Der Fuehrer's achievements. The members then served notice on Mr. Nicholson that they reserved their right to ask the Nazi emissary a series of questions at the close of her talk. When the day came, the meeting was held, but the Nazi nurse did not appear, Mr. Nicholson sadly and indignantly announcing that he was compelled to cancel her lecture "because of the heckling threats of certain members." In the light of this and similar incidents in Mr. Nicholson's background, it is no wonder that he finds the Nazis in Europe as "considerate" and "humanity-loving" as he believed them to be in his work in America.

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MCWILLIAMS PLANS SPEECH BY LINDBERGH

"Welcome Lindy" Buttons Ready for Distribution
by Christian Mobilizers

The Hour is informed that among the publicity schemes concocted by Joseph E. McWilliams in his campaign for election to Congress is that of having Charles A. Lindbergh address one of the mass meetings of the American Destiny Party. Negotiations in this matter have progressed to the point where quantities of "Welcome Lindy" buttons are now stored in McWilliams' office, ready for distribution.

The candidate of the American Destiny Party feels, and not without reason, that an address by Lindbergh will be front-page news. The prospects of the Lindbergh speech have not yet been made generally known to members of the Destiny Party; only those in the inner circles are acquainted with the preparations afoot. Conferences on the subject are being conducted with utmost and impressive secrecy. McWilliams intends, however, soon to make public the information.

Fascist Statements Mark Opening Campaign Speech

McWilliams has already opened his campaign. On June 14, on the corner of 85th Street and First Avenue, a crowd of approximately 500 persons heard him make his first campaign speech. The leader of the Christian Mobilizers was unusually outspoken in his praise for Hitler and Mussolini. Apparently the recent victories in Europe of the fascist states have emboldened McWilliams. He recommended the immediate application of fascism to the United States and promised that if elected to Congress he will contribute his bit toward bringing about this "ideal form of government."

The crowd, which was well studded with Mobilizer stooges, cheered the numerous anti-Semitic remarks that McWilliams made. He declared he was "out to smash the Jews" and explained that this was the only reason there was opposition in the press to his candidacy. Neither the Democratic nor the Republican parties were spared his vituperation; both of them, he shouted, were controlled by "Jew-stooges." When a few people in the audience objected to some of these comments, Mobilizer strongarm boys quickly and none too gently removed them from the audience.

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NAZIS PREPARE BUSINESS EMISSARIES FOR U. S.

Word has reached The Hour that, confident of complete victory in the near future, the Nazi Government has ready several thousand "business emissaries" to be sent to the United States. These agents include both buyers and vendors. They have many orders ready to place, especially for "reconstruction work" in Europe; and at the same time they hope to secure orders for such products as the Third Reich feels it will be in a position to export at advantage to itself. The Nazis are not only confident that they will be sending these agents in the immediate future; they are also openly optimistic that in many places their agents will be assured of an hospitable reception.

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FASCIST ORGANIZATION APPEALS FOR RESTRICTED VOTE

Attacks Democratic Principles in "Manifesto,"
Labels Universal Suffrage "Ballot Cattle,"
Receives Mail at German Steamship Offices

A new fascist organization with the somewhat pretentious title of The American-by-Statesmanship Crusade For The Restricted Franchise is distributing throughout the United States a "Manifesto" urging that the majority of American citizens be deprived of the right to vote. The "Manifesto," a lengthy printed diatribe, is headlined: "Americans Read this Manifesto -- the most important political issue in America." The proclamation is prefaced with quotations from famous statesmen which supposedly establish the inherent weakness of the democratic form of government. These quotations are followed by an exhortation for all intelligent "Gentile people" to join in a crusade against "Equality, Fraternity, etc." The latter principles, according to the circular, are part of "a bolshevik philosophy brought forward in the French revolutionary period" and "applied electorally, ... the deadliest piece of political quackery that ever destroyed a nation or proscribed a civilization." The circular concludes with a membership application form which requests, among other information, the "Number of generations in your ancestry in America."

Anti-Democratic and Anti-Semitic Tone

The "Manifesto" is written in a signally fascist style. The following passage is indicative of the contempt for democracy which the proclamation expresses:

"... misrule by politicians WHO ALWAYS GET INTO POWER THROUGH UNRESTRICTED SUFFRAGE (ballot cattle) has, in effect, DISFRANCHISED OUR BEST CITIZENRY. Why deny the divine right of Kings only to institute the satanic privilege of the scum? Class secession has set in. The cultured, honorable class, finding itself hopelessly outnumbered at the polls ... has withdrawn from politics, both as voters and candidates."

The only solution to this situation, the proclamation goes on to say, is to place certain qualifications upon the right to vote, to limit the franchise to "much higher developed or endowed intelligence and substantial moral qualities." The majority of the population, it is pointed out, can never reach this standard; and they should permanently be eliminated from the polls. The "Manifesto" is strongly anti-Semitic and implies that among the "inferiors" who should be deprived of the right to vote are the Jewish people, who supposedly "have organized a state within our state which has corrupted Christian economics."

Link to German Steamship Lines

It is rather significant that the address of The America-by-Statesmanship Crusade For The Restricted Franchise is listed on the stationery of this organization as being at 218 East 86th Street, New York City. It happens that the Hamburg-American and the North German Lloyd Steamship Lines have offices at this address.

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